



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
North Atlantic Division

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Questions and Answers: <http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/kwr/FAQs.htm>
King William Reservoir Page: <http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/kwr/kwr.htm>

Army Corps of Engineers Approves King William Reservoir Permit

BROOKLYN, NY -- Brigadier General Merdith W. B. (Bo) Temple, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Division Commander, announced his decision today that the proposal by the City of Newport News, Virginia to construct the King William Reservoir project should be permitted. The application was elevated to the North Atlantic Division in 2001 when the Norfolk District recommended denial of the permit.

Implementation of Brigadier General Temple's decision is now held in abeyance. This is because under long-standing joint procedures for processing of Department of the Army permit applications under the Clean Water Act, the Northeast Regional Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service now has 15 days to request the Assistant Secretary for Parks, Fish & Wildlife of the U.S. Department of the Interior to consider requesting the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to review Brigadier General Temple's decision.

In making his decision Brigadier General Temple said "The project's purpose and need as submitted by the City of Newport News is valid." Based on more detailed information, he found that the King William Reservoir is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative to meet that need based upon current information.

Brigadier General Temple arrived at his decision after carefully considering all the reasonably foreseeable benefits and detriments of the project. The decision validates the previous finding of the North Atlantic Division's 2002 interim decision that there is a need for an additional, reliable long-term supply of water to meet the needs of the Lower Virginia Peninsula, expected to be 15.9 million gallons of water per day by the year 2040 if the reservoir is not constructed. It also finds that the applicant's Streams & Wetlands Mitigation Plan, on which North Atlantic Division accepted written public comments between December 1, 2004 and February 1, 2005, is acceptable under applicable regulations and policies, subject to additional special conditions contained in today's decision.

Brigadier General Temple added, "Realizing that the project will have an effect on the environment and could affect cultural and historic resources, the permit has several special conditions to minimize environmental impacts and to ensure cultural and historic resources are properly assessed, protected and/or preserved."

The text of today's decision can be found at: <http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/kwr/decision.pdf>

Copies may be requested from the North Atlantic Division Public Affairs Office, 718.765.7018.
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